

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01224 101322Z

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 SYE-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 /006 W

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9301

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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DEPT FOR SY/CC A/SY/PRS FOR HICKEY, A/SY/PRS/DD FOR S'URSO

SY CHANNEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.), PINS

SUBJ: INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE UPDATE

1. DURING MRS. VANCE'S VISIT THIS DATE TO THE ARAB QUARTER OF JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY, ISRAELI SECURITY ADVISED THEY LOCATED TWO HAND GRENADES IN THE VICINITY OF THE WAILING WALL (WESTERN WALL). THE FIRST WAS REMOVED AS A SUSPECT PACKAGE AND WAS DETERMINED TO BE A HAND GRENADE. MRS. VANCE'S SECURITY WAS ADVISED NOT TO TRAVEL TO THE WESTERN WALL UNTIL THE AREA HAD BEEN CHECKED BY ISRAELI SECURITY. THE PARTY WAS THEN ALLOWED INTO THE AREA AND MRS. VANCE VIEWED THE WALL FROM A PLAZA APPROXIMATELY 300-400 YARDS FROM THE WALL ITSELF. AFTER MRS. VANCE'S DEPARTURE FROM THE AREA, A SECOND HAND GRENADE WAS FOUND. THE AREA WAS EVACUATED AND ISRAELI POLICE REMOVED THE DEVICE. MRS. VANCE AND PARTY WERE TAKEN FROM THE OLD CITY OUTSIDE THE WALLS TO THE VICINITY OF THE CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER RETURNED TO THE KING DAVID VIA ROADS

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OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE OLD CITY. ISRAELI SECURITY ADVISED THEY BELIEVE THE HAND GRENADES WERE PLANTED BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) TO SHOW THEY ARE "STILL ALIVE" AND TO VOICE DISCONTENT WITH THE CURRENT PEACE TALKS. THE AREA SURROUNDING THE WAILING WALL HAS BEEN CHECKED BY ISRAELI SECURITY AND IS AGAIN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

2. THE AUGUST 10, 1977, JERUSALEM POST REPORTED THAT TWO SOLDIERS WERE SLIGHTLY INJURED ON AUGUST 9, 1977, WHEN A BOMB EXPLODED NEAR THE JACOBS WELL CHURCH IN NABLUS (WEST BANK). THE CHURCH IS VISITED DAILY BY HUNDREDS OF TOURISTS AND AN ARMY GUARD IS LOCATED AT THE CHURCH AT ALL TIMES. A SWEEP OF THE AREA FOR ADDITIONAL BOMBS WAS CONDUCTED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. AN INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN OPENED.

3. THE POST ALSO REPORTED THAT A SMALL BOMB, COMPOSED OF A HAND GRENADE WITH A TIMING DEVICE, WAS DISCOVERED AND DEFUSED IN A SUPERMARKET IN THE MAOZ AVIV QUARTER OF TEL AVIV ON AUGUST 9. THE MARKET WAS SEARCHED FOR ADDITIONAL BOMBS WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. ABOUT 50 SUSPECTS, MOSTLY ARABS FROM THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES WERE ROUNDED UP AND HELD FOR QUESTIONING.

4. THE AUGUST 9, 1977, INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE REPORTED THAT ON AUG. 8 RIGHTIST CHRISTIAN FORCEES AND PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON BORDERING ISRAEL ENTERED THEIR SECOND DAY OF FIGHTING. OFFICIAL REPORTS SAID TWO WERE KILLED AND 16 WOUNDED, MOST OF THE CASUALTIES OCCURING IN THE GUERRILLA-CONTROLLED MOSLEM TOWN OF NABATIYET.

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5. ON THE SAME DAY, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN ADMITTED THAT ISRAEL HAS BEEN PROVIDING TRAINING, SUPPLIES AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT TO CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. BEGIN STATED THAT IT WAS ISRAEL'S "DUTY" TO PREVENT WHAT HE CALLED AN ATTEMPT AT "GENOCIDE" BY PALESTINIAN FORCES IN LEBANON. MR. BEGIN TOURED THE LEBANESE BORDER AREA THE SAME DAY.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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